(c) Information about cost of production in major coal producing countries is classified and not available. Therefore, a comparison is not possible.

(d) The cost of production of coal in Coal India Ltd. has been kept well within the inflation rate in recent years. However, following cost control measures are being taken by the coal companies :

(i) Reduction of underutilised manpower through implementation of voluntary retirement scheme.

(ii) Reduction of equipment downtime by improvement in workshop facility and availability of spares.

(iii) Procurement of equipment conforming to international standards from globally competitive sources.

Complaints received from Electricity Boards Consumers' Association on underweight of coal wagons

4283. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total turnover of coal per annum in terms of quantity and sale price ;

(b) whether any complaints regarding under-weighment of wagons and short sup ply of coal have been received from the Electricity Boards and Consumers' Associa tion ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard ;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof ; and

(f) the follow-up action being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The total coal production and the net sales realisation in Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited for the year 1992-93 were as follows ;

(Data provisional)

	Production (in million tonnes)	Net sales realisation (Rs. in crores)
Coal India Ltd. .	211.22	7560.25
Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	22.51	881.75

(b) to (f) Complaints have been received from Electricity Boards and consumer associations regarding shortage in weight of coal supplied to them. Such complaints generally relate to rail-borne coal. Coal companies supply coal on FOR basis and provide the facility to the consumers for supervising, loading and weighment of wagons at the time of despatch. As such, coal companies are not and cannot thereafter be held responsible for the enroute alleged pilferage of coal from loaded wagons. All out efforts are being made by coal companies to ensure maximum availability of weighbridges and also to install additional weighbridges so that most of the rail-borne coal is despatched only after weighment at the loading point where sale is completed. Coal consumers including the State Electricity Boards have been encouraged to post their representatives to inspect the loading and weighment of coal at the loading/weighment points. Hence the coal companies cannot be made liable for any alleged loss in transit.

Supply of Coal to Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh

4284. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of coal produced by C.C.L., E.C.L. and B.C.C.L. during 1993-94 ;

(b) the quantity of coal out of it supplied to Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh ;

(c) the quantity of good quality of coal exported ;

(d) the amount of profit earned by each of these coal producing companies during 1993-94;

(e) whether there is any difference in demand and supply of coal during this year; and